

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, as amended, remain herein. Claims 10-16 have been added.

1. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Hsiung US Patent 6,876,313. Hsiung discloses light emission sources located in a rear panel of an operation part that emit light forward (away from the rear panel) towards a light guide. Hsiung does not disclose a light guiding piece located in the concave portion to diffusively transmit the light from the light emission source to illuminate the rear surface of the operation knob, as recited in applicants' claim 1. Nor does Hsiung disclose a light emission source above a bearing section of the operation knob, which pierces a hole in the light guiding piece toward the operation knob, as recited in applicants' claim 1.

Thus, Hsiung does not disclose all elements of applicant's claimed invention and therefore is not a proper basis for a rejection under §102. Nor does Hsiung suggest applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, all claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9 are not anticipated by Hsiung, and applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection, and allowance of all those claims.

2. Claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hsiung US Patent 6,876,313 in view of Weber et al. US Patent 6,092,902. As explained above herein, there is no disclosure or teaching in Hsiung which discloses or suggests applicant's claimed invention.

Weber describes a light guide with a reflective coating. But Weber does not describe the aforementioned elements of applicants' claim 1.

Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Hsiung or Weber that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, the subjects matter of each of claims 4 and 6 are nonobvious over Hsiung and Weber, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of those grounds of rejection.

3. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hsiung US Patent 6,876,313 in view of Bauer US Patent 4,800,466. As explained above herein, there is no disclosure or teaching in Hsiung that discloses or suggests applicant's claimed invention.

Bauer describes a device in which a panel has a hole to fit a light source, and light guides to direct the light. But Bauer does not describe the aforementioned elements of applicants' claim 1.

Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Hsiung or Bauer that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 8 nonobvious over Hsiung and Bauer, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of those grounds of rejection.

For all the foregoing reasons, all claims 1-16 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

The PTO is hereby authorized to charge or credit any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. Should the Examiner deem that any further amendments would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, he is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Ellsworth", is written over a horizontal line.

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